



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/615,601	07/07/2003	Abhishek Lal	852463.402	8291
500	7590	07/26/2005	EXAMINER	
SEED INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW GROUP PLLC 701 FIFTH AVE SUITE 6300 SEATTLE, WA 98104-7092				JEANGLAUDE, JEAN BRUNER
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		2819		

DATE MAILED: 07/26/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/615,601	LAL, ABHISHEK	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Jean B. Jeanglaude	2819	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on amendment filed on 06-07-05.

2a) This action is **FINAL**.                    2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 5-14 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-4 and 15-24 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

### **Response To Amendments/Arguments**

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 - 24 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### **DETAILED ACTION**

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States

3. Claims 1 – 4, 15 - 17, 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ginetti (US Patent Number 5,831,566).

4. Regarding claims 1, 4, 15, Ginetti discloses an improved binary decoder ( a binary decoder) and method (fig. 2) that comprises a selection circuit (130) structured to activate from a plurality of outputs (122,..., 129) a selected output corresponding to an input binary value (fig. 2) and a deselecting circuit (130) coupled to the plurality of outputs (122,..., 129) that deactivates the plurality of outputs except the selected output when the selected output is activated (fig. 2)[col. 4, lines 33 – 41].

5. Regarding claims 2, 16, Ginetti discloses an improved binary decoder [decoder] (fig. 2) wherein the selection means (130) comprises a circuit arrangement of gates (the transistor have gates) for selecting a desired output (fig. 2).

6. Regarding claims 3, 17, Ginetti discloses an improved binary decoder [decoder] (fig. 2) wherein the deselecting means (130) comprises a circuit arrangement (the

transistors) having a single input (Vss) connected to the selected output of the selection means (fig. 2) and a plurality of outputs (122,..., 129) of which is connected to one of the remaining outputs of the selection means, such that when the input of the circuit arrangement is activate all the other outputs of the decoder are forced to the inactive state (fig. 2)[col. 4, lines 33 – 41].

7. Regarding claim 24, Ginetti discloses a decoder (fig. 2) wherein the selection circuit (130) includes a first transistor (MN3) coupled between a reference voltage (Vss) and a first one of the outputs (122); and a second transistor (MN2) coupled between the reference voltage and a second one (123) of the outputs wherein the deselection circuit (130) includes a third transistor (MP3) connected between the reference voltage (VDD) and the first output and having an input connected to the second output and a fourth transistor connected between the reference voltage and the second output having an input connected to the first output (fig. 2)[as noted in fig. 2, the transistors are used to select and deselect the outputs of the decoder 120] (see col. 4, lines 33 – 41].

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 18, 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ginetti (US Patent Number 5,831,566) in view of the Applicant's admitted prior art (APA).

Art Unit: 2819

10. Regarding claims 18, 19, Ginetti discloses all the limitations as discussed above except the decoder wherein the selection and deselection circuits are connected to provide a 2-to 4 decoder that provides an active low output for an input of A'.B' and for an input A.B' (claim 18) and a decoder wherein the selection and deselection circuits are connected to provide a 2-to-4 decoder that provides an active low output for an input of A'.B and for an input A.B. (claim 19). However, the APA discloses a binary decoder (decoder) wherein the selection and deselection circuits are connected to provide a 2-to 4 decoder that provides an active low output for an input of A'.B' and for an input A.B' (figs. 1 - 4) and a decoder wherein the selection and deselection circuits are connected to provide a 2-to-4 decoder that provides an active low output for an input of A'.B and for an input A.B. (figs. 1 – 4). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Ginetti's system with that of the APA in order to improve the performance of the system.

11. Claims 20 - 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ginetti (US Patent Number 5,831,566) in view of Park (US Patent Number 5,844,515).

12. Regarding claims 20 – 23, Ginetti discloses all the limitations discussed above except the decoder wherein the selection and deselection circuits are connected to provide a 3-to-8 decoder that provides an active low output for an input of A'.B.C' and for an input A.B.C' (claim 20); the decoder wherein the selection and deselection circuits are connected to provide a 3-to-8 decoder that provides an active low output for an input of A'.B'.C and for an input A.B'.C (claim 21) and the decoder wherein the selection and deselection circuits are connected a 3-to-8 decoder that provides an

Art Unit: 2819

active low output for an input of A'.B.C' and for an input A.B.C' (claim 22). However, 3-to-8 decoder is known in the art. One particular example of a known 3-to-8 decoder is the one described in Park which has three inputs and 8 outputs (decoders 30, 50 are 3-to-decoder; the logical inputs of the decoders 30, 50 are combined to produce the outputs). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to couple the decoder described in Park's system to Ginetti's system in order to provide an accurate DAC.

#### Allowable Subject Matter

13. Claims 5 – 14 are allowable.

#### Conclusion

14. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jean B. Jeanglaude whose telephone number is 571-272-1804. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 7:30 A. M. - 5:00 P.M..

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Jean Bruner Jeanglaude  
Primary Examiner  
July 21, 2005